

In the Drawings:

Please amend Figs. 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 7I, 8A, and 8D by enlarging the numbers, letters, and reference characters.

Since all of the letters, numbers, and reference numerals for these figures are being enlarged, no annotated drawing sheets (marked-up copies of the amended figures) are being submitted herewith. Instead, replacement sheets of drawings are being submitted herewith. The replacement drawing sheets showing the amended figures are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.84 and are identified as "Replacement Sheet."

Remarks:

In the May 3, 2005, Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figs. 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 7I, 8A, and 8C as having numbers, letters, and reference numerals which were too small and not legible. The Examiner rejected Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

On the merits, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Li et al. (C. Li et al., Automatic Fault Detection, Isolation, and Recovery in Transparent All-Optical Networks, Journal of Lightwave Technology, Vol. 15, No. 10, October, 1997). The Examiner rejected Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Tice et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,501).

Applicants hereby submit substitute drawing sheets for the drawings which were objected to. Annotated drawing sheets were not provided due to the fact that all of the numbers, letters, and reference numerals in these sheets have been enlarged.

Independent Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been extensively amended by the present Amendment B, and Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. New Claims 5 through 21 have been added by the present Amendment B.

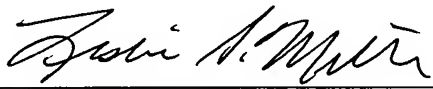
In view of the extensive revisions to Claims 1, 3, and 4, the rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed as being moot. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are now unique and they includes limitations which are not taught in the art. No new matter has been added by either the amendment of Claims 1, 3, and 4 or the addition of new dependent Claims 5-21. The three independent claims include limitations which are not taught or suggested

by the prior art, either the art cited by the Examiner in the May 3, 2005, Office Action or any other prior art of which Applicants are aware. Thus, Applicants believe that independent Claims 1, 3, and 4 are allowable, and respectfully request their allowance by the Examiner.

Newly added Claims 5-21 depend upon Claim 1, which as stated above is believed to be allowable, and thus these claims are also believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that Claims 1 and 3-21 are patentable at this time. These claims remain pending following entry of this Amendment B, and are in condition for allowance at this time. As such, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment B and reconsideration of the application, with an early and favorable decision being solicited. Should the Examiner believe that the prosecution of the application could be expedited, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

BY   
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Leslie S. Miller  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 30,662

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.  
1000 North Water Street, Suite 2100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 298-8321

Customer No. 22922